

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7 and 13 are amended, claim 9 is canceled, and new claims 14-16 are added. Support for new claims 14 and 15 can be found, *inter alia*, in paragraphs [0011] and [0013], and support for new claim 16 can be found in paragraph [0012]. Claims 1-8 and 10-16 are presented for further examination.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 9, which has been canceled, and to require that the non-homogeneous gas mixture is passed into a buffer tank prior to conveying the gas mixture into a compressor. Claim 13 has been amended to include a gas-insulated circuit. Support for the changes to claim 13 can be found, *inter alia*, in paragraphs [0002], [0020] and [0021] of the specification.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested. As suggested by the examiner, claim 7 has been amended to insert the word "and" between the penultimate and ultimate constituents of the Markush group. No further correction is believed to be necessary.

The rejection of claims 1 and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Baudet, FR 2631856 in view of DeHart, US 3,330,773 or Heiskel, EP 0384371 or Tokumitsu, JP 60-86195 and the rejection of claim 2-6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Baudet in view of DeHart or Heiskel or Tokumitsu and further in view of Mears, US 4,052,555 are respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Baudet discloses transfer volume 10, which the Office Action asserts is a static mixer. Claim 1 has now been amended so that it does not read on passing a gas mixture into a static mixer, but instead requires passing the gas mixture into a buffer tank and through a return line. Baudet does not disclose or suggest a buffer tank much less a buffer tank having a return line.

DeHart, Heiskel and Tokumitsu, which were cited for disclosing gas mixtures comprising fluorinated hydrocarbons, do not disclose or suggest a buffer tank and thus do not remedy the deficiencies of Baudet with respect to claim 1.

Mears, which was cited for disclosing dielectric compositions comprising perfluorinated ethers and nitrogen or SF₆, likewise does not disclose or suggest a buffer tank. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

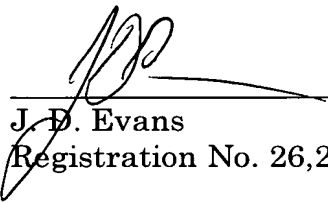
In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037110.52388US).

Respectfully submitted,

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